

[REDACTED]  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M St. N.W.  
Washington, DC 20554

FROM: Chris Jackins (P.O. Box 84063, Seattle, WA 98124)

REGARDING: Local control over placement of cellular antennas

COPY TO: House Speaker Newt Gingrich

Dear Bill Caton,

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

I recently read about a proposal to pre-empt local control over the placement of cellular antennas, and instead put these decisions at the federal level, at the FCC. (See enclosed article in the February 16, 1995, "Seattle Times".)

I think that this proposal runs counter to the current efforts to return more control to the state and local level.

I have concerns about the potential health effects of such cellular transmissions. I do not think that the health effects of cellular tower transmissions have been sufficiently researched to justify putting aside the concerns of local citizens.

The newspaper article noted that you had said that people could still submit comments, even though the "formal" deadline was yesterday.

Thank you for considering my input.

Sincerely,

*Chris Jackins*

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# FCC ponders plan for towers from cellular phone industry

## Towers

CONTINUED FROM B 1

anywhere anytime.

But those collisions along the information superhighway could become a thing of the past if the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) approves a proposal submitted by the Cellular Telephone Industry Association. In essence,

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The association argues in its petition that Congress already gave the FCC authority to pre-empt local control when it revised the Communications Act two years ago to say that local regulators can't prohibit entry of "commercial mobile services" into a market.

## How to comment

People who wish to express their opinions about the pre-emption petition can write to Bill Caton, secretary of the Federal Communications Commission, 1919 M St. N.W., Washington, DC 20554.

[REDACTED]

The petition urges the FCC to exercise the authority.

The proposal worries residents like Nancy Weidinger, who have fought hard to keep cell towers and antennas that they see as intrusive and potentially hazardous out of their neighborhoods.

"It's sneaky and corrupt," said Weidinger, a member of the Microwave Awareness Group of Yelm, one of myriad neighborhood groups that have targeted towers in their neighborhoods.

Weidinger started a national campaign to alert state governors of the Cellular Telephone Industry Association's proposal.

The issue is uncharted territory for many city planners, says Kirk Vinish, a project planner for the city of Edmonds, where there has been vocal opposition to three proposed

cellular base stations.

"Counties and cities around the state are really struggling with this," said Vinish.

"We're not electromagnetic experts, and we're not getting much guidance from the state."

He said planners often have to defer to the experts the companies bring in. "They bring in all these engineers, and who are we to deny what they are saying?"

Dean Sutherland, D-Vancouver, chairman of the state Senate's Energy, Telecommunications and Utilities Committee, said the association's move surprised and disappointed him.

"I think it's an issue we can deal with at the state level," he said.

## Everybody likes cell phones, but not the towers

BY JENNIFER BJORHUS  
*Seattle Times Snohomish County bureau*

Sure enough, the information superhighway may be a freeway after all: Everybody wants to use it, but no one wants to live under it.

"They simply don't need to go to the federal level."

But Sutherland, who also sits on the governor's task force on telecommunications policy, said he was unaware of any formal action the state was planning to take on the pre-emption issue.

Placement of towers and antennas have become a zoning nightmare, causing costly delays for the very companies that need them.

Mike Houghton, spokesman for association, cited one instance in which it took a company 18 months and \$100,000 to get a tower built next to a county dump.

Cellular-phone-transmission towers range in size and height, from free-standing towers taller than 160 feet to 8-foot rooftop antenna panels.

This simple fact, the information Age has sparked battles from Yelm to Duvall to Everett, where city planners, alarmed homeowners and cellular-phone companies have wrangled over construction of cellular-phone transmission towers.

"What price progress?" residents and cities are asking, even as cellular-phone companies struggle to satisfy our urge to talk

PLEASE SEE **Towers** ON B 3